



NEW USAID MISSION DIRECTOR FOR HAITI SWORN IN

WASHINGTON, DC – Carleene Dei was sworn in as Haiti Mission Director on January 6, 2010. Her wealth of experience was drawn on immediately. On the day after she arrived in Port-au-Prince, Haiti was hit by an earthquake that left thousands dead, wounded and/or displaced. Says Carleene, "The earthquake happened the day after my arrival as I was on my way to a supermarket that was completely demolished by the quake. I have been putting in 14 hour days with my USAID and other donor colleagues as we strive to erect the structures that will permit us to deliver emergency assistance to the Haitian population while contributing to making Haiti a better place than it was before the quake."

In addition to responding to the current crisis, as director, Dei will oversee programs to promote stability and help Haitians strengthen their democratic institutions, promote economic growth and improve education and health services.

Dei began her career with USAID in 1988 as a regional housing and urban development officer in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. In 1994, she went on to head the Regional Housing and Urban Development Office in Pretoria, South Africa, where she worked closely with the newly installed South African government on ground-breaking infrastructure initiatives to create housing and improve local access to water and electricity. From 2001-2005, Dei served as mission director to the regional USAID West Africa program in Ghana, collaborating with the government, NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, and the private sector on cross-border issues (HIV/AIDS relief, food security, and conflict prevention). Most recently, Dei served as the mission director for USAID/South Africa, tackling HIV/AIDS initiatives (via the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief), employment generation (primarily through the provision of technical and financial support to small and medium sized black-owned enterprises), capacity-building for teachers and learners, and expanding service delivery to the majority population.

Dei holds a Ph.D. in urban anthropology from Columbia University, an M.A. in education from Harvard University, and a B.A. in political science from Cornell University.

